



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033048-019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) MAIL STOP AF
Paul Kennedy) Group Art Unit: 2131
Application No.: 09/841,008) Examiner: CHRISTIAN A
Filed: April 25, 2001) LAFORGIA
For: ACCESS AUTHENTICATION FOR) Confirmation No.: 4932
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 9-12, 14-18, 20-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the newly-cited Aldred et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,549) in view of the Byrne et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,170). Claims 13, 19 and 24 were rejected on the basis of these two patents, and further in view of the Pang et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,204). It is respectfully submitted that these patents do not suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art, whether they are considered individually or in combination.

Claim 9 recites a method for authenticating users to individual network devices. The first step of this method is storing a directory structure. This directory comprises a root node, a first level of nodes below the root node that are associated with respective organizations to which the network devices are assigned, and at least one further level of nodes below the first level that identify users who are